

## No Boom in Offing, But Gradual Rise in Economic Picture Seen

Anyone who has been wondering just how the United States economy is doing can sit back with the comforting assurance that its state of health is "as good as can be expected."

After last year's "slump," "dip," "recession" or "readjustment"—whichever you prefer—1954's first six months did much to brighten the business picture. While no boom is in the offing, the makings of a gradual rise are apparent.

First reports reveal that, while sales of many companies still were heading downward, net profits were up, thanks to the ending of the excess profits tax last Dec. 31 and cuts in operating costs. In many instances, companies that lost ground in the first three months regained it in the second quarter.

Steel production, as reliable a barometer as any of business health, is down to 64.5 per cent of rated capacity, but early model changes in the automobile industry are expected to give this industry a needed stimulant in September. Metals and machinery making are down, too. Textiles are still weak, and building supplies are spotty despite a near-record housing boom, but aircrafts, chemicals, and foods are doing well. And department stores sales in recent weeks have been topping those of a year ago.

**STATES' RIGHTS WIN**—In the tangle of approaches toward solving the problems of making interstate highway freight pay its share of road construction and maintenance costs, one thing seems certain:

Individual states will continue to exercise their right to tax interstate trucking as they see fit, without interference from Washington. This recently became clear from two directions. In one instance, the House Rules Committee decisively tabled a resolution calling for a House investigation of state taxes imposed on interstate trucks. The resolution was sponsored by Ohio Republican William H. Ayres, who charged that Ohio's refusal to exempt out-of-state trucks from its newly-enacted axle-mile tax threatened a "breakdown of the voluntary system of truck tax reciprocity."

In the other instance, the annual Governors Conference, meeting at Bolton Landing, N. Y., upheld by resolution "the right of each state to devise its own tax system to meet its highway finance needs." Support for the right of the states to levy special highway-use taxes on interstate trucks was spearheaded by Governors Lausche of Ohio and Dewey of New York.

**THINGS TO COME**—Plastic collars and cuffs for midday that

look like linen yet can be cleaned easily by sponging with soap and water . . . Lightweight building blocks of shale aggregate that use adhesive instead of sand-cement mortar . . . A detergent that dissolves readily in either hot or cold water . . . A harmless repellent to stop birds from roosting on window sills, spouting or roof tops . . . Dyed-in-the-wool fishermen can now get a portable automatic power kit that has gadgets to scale fish in a jiffy, sharpen hooks, polish tackle and clean reels . . . An applicator for painting sash, moulding and

tight corners without contacting adjoining surfaces.

**DING, DONG BELL**—Merchandising frontiers are few and far between, but there's one that's just around the corner. It's the school market, says the merchandise manager of the country's largest pen maker.

Enrollment increases of 1,000,000 this year and 10,000,000 in the next 10 years mean new markets for every Main Street retailer. In the opinion of Jack Asthalter of Sheaffer Pen Co. But, he warns, the kiddies will have to be "sold." And that

means products designed with school-age appeal and sales techniques geared to the school market.

As for handwriting, Asthalter credits functional improvements in writing tools with enabling children in the early grades to use fountain pens, ballpoints and mechanical pencils. "The result is—and a majority of school principals agree—that students not only write better than those of a generation ago, but they learn handwriting more easily with fountain pens and ballpoints," he says.

**GLUTTED MARKET**—What to do with the oil that will soon be flowing again from wells in far-off Iran is puzzling the industry's market experts. Production now is running well ahead of demand in all of the

world's major producing areas and dunking another 650,000 barrels of oil daily into the global supply by 1957 is certain to have price repercussions.

But settlement of the long and bitter dispute that began when Iran nationalized its foreign-controlled oil industry has a brighter side. Resumption of production is expected to give the Middle East kingdom the economic stimulation it badly needs and relieve Uncle Sam from doling out millions of dollars in aid. And it should strengthen Iran's hand against Communist encroachment.

**LAKE CARGOES**—More than 50 million tons of bituminous coal were moved over the Great Lakes during the 1953 shipping season.

AUG. 12, 1954 TORRANCE HERALD Seven

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## Paralyzed Grandson of Local Man Rolls Self Through Law School

It was with special satisfaction that Franklin C. Kelley, of 22904 Cabrillo Ave., viewed the recent swearing in of successful candidates for the California bar.

His grandson, Paul Edward Griffiths, 29, of Bakersfield, was one of those sworn in. There was something special about his success, for he had become a lawyer against the advice of those who supposedly "knew better."

Griffiths received the oath in a wheel chair which has held him since he was stricken with polio 15 years ago. A frequent visitor to the Kelley home, Griffiths was visiting his grandparents when stricken. Although paralyzed from the waist down, Griffiths attended Bakersfield Junior College, and here decided to become a lawyer. Rehabilitation experts advised against such a course, declaring it would be too hard for him.

**Makes the Grade**  
With financial aid from his grandfather and his father, Richard A. Griffiths, money from various odd jobs, and hours of

hard study, Griffiths made the grade.

He graduated from the University of California at Berkeley, and then went to Hastings School of Law in San Francisco. Finding the steep hills there more than he could comfortably navigate, Griffiths transferred to Southwestern University in Los Angeles, where he graduated.

He passed the bar exam on the first try. Other students helped Griffiths in and out of elevators and through doors and got books for him from high shelves, but otherwise he sought no special favors. He lived alone, doing his own housekeeping.

**Above Average**  
"He was an above average student," Southwestern Dean Ignatius Parker said. "It makes us who have no such handicaps feel ashamed of ourselves."

For odd jobs, Griffiths worked in the law library and tied dry flies for fishermen. An ardent fisherman himself, he estimated that he tied about 3000 flies during school.

He plans to open a law office in his home town, Bakersfield.

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